

# division of community services



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## Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program *Fact Sheet*

The Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) provides eligible households with full scale home energy conservation services.

The Community Services Unit (CSU), within the DHCD's Division of Community Services (DCS), has administrative, programmatic, and fiscal oversight of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) funded program. The Weatherization Assistance Program is operated locally by a network of 12 community based organizations across the Commonwealth under contract with DHCD.

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### How it works

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income households reduce their heating bills by providing full scale home energy conservation services. Services provided by the program results in a more comfortable, safe home and a permanent improvement in the lives of the occupants. The program is operational year around. The actual conservation work completed is dependent on the specific needs of the home. After a household is determined eligible, the local agency schedules an energy inspection of the home. A Mass. Certified Energy Auditor completes a full inspection of the energy and health and safety concerns of the home and completes a Work Order/Job Write-Up. Local weatherization contractors are hired to complete the work at no cost to the occupants. Typical work completed includes air sealing, attic and/or sidewall insulation, weather-stripping, and minor repairs associated with the weatherization work. Heating system work, if needed is typically referred to a separate program administered by DHCD/BEP. All work receives a thorough

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Quality Control inspection by the agency's Energy Auditor. To the greatest extent possible, work is coordinated with any utility-funded Demand Side Management (DSM) programs that may be available in the area.

**Who is eligible**

Households with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level may be eligible for the Weatherization Assistance Program. Program eligibility is based on household eligibility for the LIHEAP Program. In addition, those households with a member receiving TAFDC or SSI are categorically eligible. Due to limited funding, priority points are awarded to households with members who are elderly, handicapped, children under 7, or Native Americans. Households with exceptionally high energy bills also may receive priority of service. Tenants (with landlord approval) as well as homeowners are eligible for weatherization.

**Application process**

Applicants must apply and be determined eligible for Federal LIHEAP (Fuel Assistance) to be eligible for the Weatherization Assistance Program. The Head of Household must apply to the local LIHEAP agency. Applicants are required to provide household income information.

**Grants**

Weatherization services vary dependent on the specific needs of the home and DOE approved conservation measures. Typical jobs range from \$200 to a maximum of \$4,600 with the average grant approximately \$1,000. No client contribution is required.

**For more information**

Please contact the Division of Community Services at (617) 573-1400 or toll free at (800)635-8175. Program staff is also available by appointment to provide assistance.